

Mohave County Miner.

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Disturb Dead in Quest for Gold.

W. S. Davis and Elisha Moore, two American miners, have discovered that a vein of gold and silver ore runs through the famous catacombs of Guanajuato, and the demolition of these ancient subterranean passages are the only reproduction of the Roman catacombs in Mexico, and there is a world of romance in their history, which dates back to the horrors of the Inquisition.

In making the excavations for the new Mexican Central railway depot at Guanajuato the fact that the walls and foundations of the old tombs are rich in precious metals was accidentally discovered and the venerable mummies that stand like sentinels of death in these chambers may be removed some day and preparations for mining will be begun.

The Guanajuato catacomb of mummies is a crypt beneath a burial ground on the hill above. The custom for centuries has been to rent a burial lot for a certain period of time in the cemetery. When the lease is up the bodies are exhumed and in most cases they are found to be mummified, either by the dryness of the soil and air or by the chemical properties in the earth. These natural mummies, having no longer anywhere to lay their heads, are stood up in rows in the crypt, the men on one side and the women on the other, as if ranged for a fantastic dance of death. It is one of the most curious and uncanny places of the American continent.

Many of the fleshless faces are horribly contorted, others mirthful, thoughtful, or sad, but all of them are inexpressibly loathsome. They were for many years entirely naked, or clad only in tattered grave clothes, but of late years the city of Guanajuato has prescribed that their bodies be draped with white cloth, which lends an additional ghastliness to the chamber of death.

It is not surprising that a vein of gold has been found in the catacombs of Guanajuato. So rich are the hills around the city that the mines have supported 12 generations of inhabitants covering almost 400 years. To such an extent do the precious metals permeate the country rock that the paving stones of the streets are impregnated with gold and silver.

Even the mud or adobe brick of which the poorer and older classes of houses are made contain quantities of silver and gold. This fact was discovered about a year ago by an American mining man. He promptly purchased blocks of adobe huts, tore them down, treated them as so much ore and extracted the precious metal from the debris.

The American has cleaned up a neat fortune from his enterprise, but a little village, a suburb of the city, almost lies in ruins as a result.

Now it seems that still greater devastation will be wrought by this newest mining venture. The Americans who have unearthed the new vein of ore have traced it from the point where it was discovered to the catacombs and from there down the hill and through the city park, which is situated in the heart of the city.

This is only one example of the richness of Guanajuato, that it is literally ribbed and veined with gold.

It was the mines of Guanajuato that furnished the gold and silver to Spain which was used to build the famous Armada, and supplied the sinews of war for centuries.

So unbounded has been the wealth of this hill city that traditions of its past sound like tales from the Arabian Nights. One of these is that it used to be a custom of the old mining kings to pave the streets with silver ingots for the christening procession of their first-born sons. Others built costly churches and erected solid silver altars with the surplus of their great wealth.

Millions, also, were stolen from these old mines and smuggled away to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, where the rich ore was loaded on Spanish galleons and carried away to Spain. One of these vessels was known to have been lost in the Caribbean sea,

and only recently an expedition was on foot to locate the treasure and recover it.

There is a 1,000,000\$ power plant, whose power is generated by a waterfall 100 miles from Guanajuato, from which electric power is conveyed to the mines of the district by wire. This plant is instrumental in reviving mining because it furnishes cheap power. Formerly the fires under the boilers were fed by wood and fuel was growing dearer with its scarcity.

As a result of all this development enterprise Guanajuato's ancient grandeur is threatened by the discovery of the marvellous rich veins of gold and silver directly under the city, for it is feared that the mine owners will stop at nothing to extract the last possible dollar from the native rock, unless they are hampered by municipal interference.—Denver Mining Record.

The Robinson Mines.

We grow enthusiastic over a production of a few thousand dollars a month and can scarcely believe that one of the gold mines in the world is producing millions of dollars during the same period. But there is a mine—at least one—that has a record of having produced in a single month nearly as much gold as the annual output of the Cripple Creek district. This mine is the Robinson of the Rand, South Africa. Last December, it produced 583,526 ounces, valued at 12,393,295\$. This is "some gold." This property has ore reserves of 52,500,000\$, but it has scarcely started to explore its ground, and practically all the work is in ore.

These are not shallow mines, nor is the ore high-grade. The average runs low—possibly not over 3\$ a ton in gold. The properties work at depths from 1,000 to 3,000 feet to get into the great reefs, but once they are opened, there is no limit to the possibilities of production.

Of course, the Robinson mines are not maintaining the high record of last December, but there are some who know the Rand who believe that the production will some day be so great as to almost demonetize gold. The British government has charge of this business, and the cry of excessive gold production that has gone up from Britain these past few years may be founded on intimate knowledge of South African production. The entire output of South Africa is now about 160,000,000 a year, and it is freely predicted that in less than two years it will be doubled. If there is danger of too much gold, we may reasonably look for it to come from the dark continent.

We have large mines in our own country and at times we swell up and say that our Homestake is the premier of them all—but we forget South Africa, and we do not include the Robinson group.—Daily Mining Record.

[The editor of the Daily Mining Record seems to be laboring under a misapprehension in the matter of production of the Robinson Deep mines. For the year 1907 the net profit of the mines was four and one-half millions of dollars, of which 3,300,000\$ went into the distribution to shareholders, netting them 24 per cent. The company carried forward a balance of 1,219,200\$. There was blocked out in the mine at the close of the year 2,770,236 tons of ore of an average value of approximately 12\$ per ton, an increase of 598,536 tons, although reduced values. The cost of treatment has been reduced from 4.90\$ to 3.12\$. The Record article would lead the reader to the belief that the average value of the ore was but 3\$, which if true, would be more than adsorbed by the cost of mining and treatment. The mines are the deepest in South African territory and are on the great blanket reef that extends for more than two hundred miles through the Witwatersrand, or plains, of that wonderful country. The annual ore production of the Robinson mines is about one million tons, or about 2,800 tons daily.—Ed. Miner.]

A Rich Strike.

Jack Durham was down from his Copper Hill mining properties the latter part of last week on one of his

regular trips after supplies for his camp. He is vice president and general manager of the Ensley Giant Mining and Development company recently organized to take over his Copper Hill mining properties. The company, except Mr. Durham, are all Alabama capitalists, and are good mining people with plenty of means to develop a mine. Jack says development work at one mine is progressing rapidly and with good results. As proof of this, he brought in for the Blade ore cabinet a sample of ore taken from one of the two shafts which they are sinking on the properties, which runs 50 per cent copper and a good percentage of sulphide of molybdenum. It was taken from the shaft at a depth of 20 feet, and they had a streak of high grade ore on the hanging wall about 20 inches in width at that depth which is widening as they go down. They are now down 30 feet and the shaft is all in vein matter. They are working two shifts at the properties which are composed of the very best miners this section affords and Jack is going to show up a mine which will soon be a producer, if the ore is there in sufficient quantities and this fact is pretty well proven already.—Arizona Blade.

Tailings Worth 2,500,000\$.

W. C. Higgins, editor of the Salt Lake Mining Review, writing from Pioche, states that the Prince Consolidated Co. is also the owner of the noted Bullionville tailings, located about twelve miles south of Pioche on the Salt Lake Railroad, together with over 1,000 acres of land, large water rights and privileges, a mill containing a great deal of machinery, dwelling houses, office buildings, etc.

These tailings represent the total production of the mines of Pioche in the early days after being treated by the old pan process, but, owing to the fact that the ore was essentially a lead ore, and unsuitable to reduction by this process, a large percentage of the values escaped with the tailings. These tailings have been carefully measured and sampled by reputable engineers and found to contain 171,000 tons of an aggregate value, at present metal quotations, of over 2,500,000\$.

For some time the company has contemplated the construction of a smelting plant to treat these tailings, along with the iron ores of the Prince mine, and the ores of Pioche, generally, and the coming year will doubtless see this course of erection. The management expects to realize, by this combination, a profit of at least 33 per cent on the total contents of these tailings.—Searchlight Bulletin.

Globe Mine Will Resume.

A Houghton, Mich., dispatch says: The board of directors of the Lake Superior and Arizona mine, located some 20 miles from Globe, held a meeting in Calumet this week and decided to resume active operations at once on the property. The work will commence on June 1 and will be in charge of Fred Hoar, formerly superintendent for the Old Dominion. Mr. Hoar has been under contract with the Lake Superior and Arizona for the past year. He is thoroughly posted on the property and on the district, and while the financial stringency left the company high and dry, Mr. Hoar was retained.

The company found itself in a peculiar position eight months ago. It has a mine with a good ore showing. In fact, there have been some extensive shipments from the ore bodies, and these have all showed excellent returns from the custom smelters at El Paso. With a well opened mine, showing fine ore bodies, an empty treasury and the financial situation of the country so tight that it was out of the question to finance anything that wasn't sure of returning gold dollars for pennies, the directors had to quit operations at the Lake Superior and Arizona, for the success of the company necessitates the expenditure of large sums.

Under the old legal status in Arizona it was impossible for the directors to force collections of assessments,

and the directors found their last assessment unpaid. However, at the last session of the territorial legislature of Arizona a change was made in the mining laws, so that now companies organized in that territory can sell the stock of the delinquent stockholders who fail to make good with the assessments. Acting under this law, the directors recently called another assessment of 1\$ a share and sent out notices to the members of the decision to effect a sale of the stock when no payments were made.

Arizona Richest of All Gold States.

Convinced that Arizona will eventually prove the richest mining state of the west, with intelligent development, and that his company's properties on Oak creek will contribute their share to the gold circulation of the world and attract attention to the unexploited and partially explored districts of the territory, Dan McCarthy, general manager of the Golden Jewel Dredging and Mining Company, arrived here Saturday to take the preliminary steps towards equipping his concern's placer mines on Oak creek, with a dredging plant to cost at least 75,000\$. McCarthy, who is a practical mine manager of many years experience in the mining states of the west, has satisfied himself of the wonderful richness of the lode and placer deposits owned by his company in his development operations on the ground during the last six months.

His company's placer holdings cover a section of Oak creek, six miles south of Wagoner, which has been worked forty years by Mexican and other placer miners by hand. The gold found there is coarser and purer than the placer gold mined in other sections and the ground has been proven among the richest in the county in its exploitation by sluice box and dry washing processes. Not only is the creek bed rich, but benches on each side reaching half way up the mountains have yielded handsome profits to the miners who worked it in a small way.

In addition to the company's placer holdings, which cover 250 acres, the company owns 150 acres of lode locations covering a series of veins and ledges that have also been proven rich in shallow shafts and tunnels.

A body of ore thirty-five feet in thickness has been opened by a cross-cut on the surface, the average returns of fifteen assays from it being 16.50\$ in gold. General Manager McCarthy stated yesterday that his company intends to commence the development of this property later on a large scale. He is running a tunnel on another claim, now in a distance of 90 feet. The last six feet of this opening is in an ore body of higher grade than the other deposit but is not so large. He is pushing work on this tunnel as well as getting his placer ground in shape for the installation of a new dredger.

From an assay of the black sands of Oak creek, McCarthy has had 45\$ a ton returns in gold. He also recently

acquired for his concern several promising placer claims on Cherry creek, four miles south of this camp on Oak creek. He will leave for Chicago in a short time to purchase the dredging machinery.—Journal Miner.

To Operate Jerome Verde.

After lying idle almost seven years, the properties of the Jerome Verde Copper Company will again be the scene of active operations, all arrangements having been recently completed for the resumption of work on a larger scale than ever. J. M. Abbott Sutton of New York, general manager of the company, who has been a week at his company's camp at Jerome, arrived here yesterday on his way to the camp of the Pickaway Mining Company, to make arrangements for the transportation of the machinery there to Jerome for installation on the Jerome Verde properties. The plant, which comprises a complete mining outfit of tools and appliances, includes two 62 horsepower boilers, a large hoist and air compressor. Mr. Sutton will personally superintend the installation of the machinery and will remain at his camp in charge of operations.

During his stay in Jerome he made arrangements for the immediate erection of a number of camp buildings and let a contract for the retimbering of the main working shaft. He also purchased 30,000 feet of mining timbers to be used in the mine. The shaft is filled with water. There are four levels run from the shaft in which there is a good tonnage of ore exposed. There is a smelter of a daily capacity of 30 tons on the ground, but the management announces that it is now the company's policy to develop the mine far enough along so that a daily output of at least 100 tons of ore is assured before the smelter will be operated or enlarged. In its initial run the plant turned out 95 tons of better copper. Operations ceased at the time on account of the cost of operating the small plant being greater in proportion than one of much larger capacity. The company is now amply financed to carry out a larger scheme of operation than any ever attempted in the Verde district, with the single exception of the United Verde Copper Company. The ores in the mine are principally carbonate and oxides and the ore showing is considered among the best in the district.

The group consists of 28 claims located immediately southeast, east, northeast of and adjoining the United Verde holdings.—Journal Miner.

A lot of twenty-two and three-quarters tons of ore was received at the

Needles smelter a few days ago from the New Year's Gift mine at Searchlight which netted 45\$ per ton. This property will continue shipments to the Needles smelter.—Needles Eye.

Pima county will be this year in the ranks of the counties which can boast of a property valuation of more than 7,000,000\$.

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